

Request for Proposals



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

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Education Leaders Institute

May 11 to 13, 2011

Chicago, Illinois

Call for State Teams

Deadline: December 15, 2010



Issued by the

ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL

A. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Education Leaders Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue. This project enables states to share their challenges and receive feedback and insight from one another, while drawing on experts from fields beyond arts education. By striving to make powerful, sustainable, and thriving arts education systems throughout the nation, participating states strengthen general education for all children.

B. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Established by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), ELI builds on best practices from NEA Mayors' Institutes on City Design. ELI encourages states to develop innovative partnerships that include school leaders, legislators, policy makers, educators, consultants, and scholars that will work together to envision a healthy education environment founded on powerful arts education programs. ELI provides an environment for thought, learning, and reflection and makes use of the design process to guide state public education practice. In addition to state teams, speakers from various fields, not limited to arts education, will provide expert resources to the teams. Sessions will be designed for guided subject- and state-specific discussions. To date, twenty-four states have participated in ELI.

ELI participants will:

- Explore ways to strengthen educational leaders' support of the arts;
- Share a common framework through a series of readings to be completed prior to the event;
- Design systems to support general education with arts as a foundation;
- Create a network of education leadership that places priority on arts education;
- Build teams of influence to include colleagues who have not been traditionally in the arts;
- Begin to articulate a mission or a state specific call to action;
- Participate in the national conversation on building robust arts education systems to contribute to, complement, and deepen American education.

During the Institute, "team coaches" will work with state teams to facilitate their process, by encouraging them to prototype new ideas, while providing them with informational support, educational expertise, and encouragement as they examine existing challenges. "Team coaches" work with the ELI Planning Team to tailor each institute to the needs and interests of the participating state teams.

In 2011, ELI will take place in Chicago on May 11 to 13, 2011. Participants will be required to arrive on the afternoon of May 10th. Travel and lodging costs for state teams will be covered by the hosting agencies. Transportation and housing information will be provided to state teams that are accepted to ELI.

The NEA Education Leaders Institute is undertaken in cooperation with the Illinois Arts Council (IAC) and its partner, the Illinois Humanities Council (IHC).

C. THE PARTICIPANTS – STATE TEAMS

Teams from up to five states will be selected from this Request for Proposals. State teams may include from five to six members. Team members should represent diversity of professional experience, including but not limited to general education, arts learning, and educational philosophy. Team members should also be able to effect change in state education and arts communities. State teams are strongly encouraged to include participants with contrasting education philosophies and practices. Divergent and non-traditional perspectives are not only accepted, they are welcomed.

Successful applicants will include individuals with the following characteristics:

- Representation of intellectual and practical perspectives from diverse backgrounds in education, particularly arts education, geography, culture and heritage, economics, and other associated sectors;
- Ability and authority to lead towards and effect positive change;
- Interest in being a learner; and
- Willingness to engage in creative and possibly controversial conversations and debates.

Applicants are urged to include individuals who, first and foremost, have a track record of making thoughtful, creative, and provocative contributions to conversations on policies. Team members must represent and have the potential to reach diverse populations, especially those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. State teams must select a team leader to serve as a liaison with ELI staff and their state team members.

Applicants should consider including the following when composing their teams:

- The governor, lieutenant governor or governor's selected representative;
- The chief state officer of the state education agency;
- The arts education director from the state education agency;
- The executive director or arts education director from the state arts agency;
- An elected official or a designee who is a senior-level policy advisor;
- A school-based educator;
- A community-based educator;
- A school board member;
- Youth representative;
- A business or corporate leader who is entrepreneurial and active in the local community;
- A teaching artist or practicing artist;
- Other members appropriate to the state team's composition.

D. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; units of state or local government; and tribal governments are eligible to apply. Applicants may be nonprofit organizations, local arts agencies, service organizations, higher education institutions, and other organizations that can help advance the goals of NEA through the Education Leaders Institute. States that have participated in a previous ELI are not eligible to apply.¹ States that have applied to previous ELIs are strongly encouraged to re-apply.

E. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants should use the following checklist to assemble a complete proposal. Submit the original proposal with original signature on the cover page and one copy of the entire proposal. **Applicants are required to submit documents with single line spacing, 12 point font, and one-inch margins.** Materials in excess of those requested will not be reviewed.

1. Applicants must complete the Cover Page at the end of this RFP:
 - Enter state team members' names and contact information.
2. Proposal narrative (**maximum two pages**) describing in detail the approach to select active participants for ELI, including:
 - Process of selecting state team members and the role each will play on the team and at ELI.
 - Process of the team members' participation in the preparation of the proposal, including the selection of the challenge to be described in #4 below.
 - History of commitment to arts education. (*note*: The creation of a successful state arts education program is **not** a requisite selection criterion.) Include convenings, research, advocacy, legislation, and policy actions as relevant.
3. Background information of the applicant state (**maximum one page**) to include the following:
 - Education demographics of the state: # public school districts; # school-age children; % urban/suburban/rural; demographic composition; % English language learners (ELL); % special education.
 - Legislative information regarding arts education: state standards, graduation requirement, teaching licensure.
 - History of arts education for K-12 populations.

1. ELI Alumni: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

4. Description of a critical education issue (not limited to arts education) confronting the state (**maximum two pages**). The successful description will demonstrate the ability to frame an issue that is determined to be a challenge within the state, and would include the following components:
 - Introduction of the key issue, the environment in which the issue occurred, and the stakeholders affected by said issue.
 - Description of the key issue regarding its characteristics such as historical context, strengths and weaknesses, and relevant actions to date.
 - Framing of the question to be asked at ELI.
5. Team Member Statement (**maximum one page per individual**) that includes a one-paragraph biography, background on the team member's educational philosophy, the reason of attending ELI, and his/her perspective on the challenge named. Team Leaders will collect these statements to include in the proposal.
6. Statement of attendance commitment signed by the Team Leader on his/her official stationery on behalf of the team to (a) ensure that all team members will attend if the state is selected; and (b) prepare for ELI with the reading of prescribed texts and other materials to frame the context of ELI, selections to be determined.

Submission must be received by 5 pm on December 15, 2010 and mailed to:

Illinois Arts Council
Attn: Tatiana Gant
Director, Arts-in-Education Programs
100 West Randolph Street
Suite 10-500
Chicago, IL 60601-3298

Questions may be directed to tatiana.gant@illinois.gov or 312/814-6765.

F. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Proposals received in response to this solicitation will be evaluated by a Review Committee composed of representatives of the NEA, the IAC, and national advisors. State teams whose proposals are determined the best to fulfill the intent of the Education Leaders Institute will be selected.

The review will consider the following:

1. The team's ability to construct a compelling question or questions to be examined at ELI. (25 points)
2. The team's composition and sectors represented complements the proposed question and reflects the diversity of their state. (20 points)
3. The team's knowledge of the education environment and experience with education issues and challenges. (10 points)

4. The team's ability to effect change directly or via access to key educators, policy makers, legislators, school and community leaders, and arts professionals. (15 points)
5. The team's intellectual diversity and willingness to think laterally in the exploration of ideas. (25 points)
6. The degree to which the team's proposal demonstrates evidence that participation will have an impact on learning. (5 points)

G. SELECTION NOTIFICATION INFORMATION

The Review Committee shall review and select state teams from the pool of applicants and shall recommend them to the NEA for final decision. The NEA will also consider the overall representation of state applicants to compose ideal, complementary cohorts and to reflect the diverse national demographics of the U.S. and its territories. Applicants shall be notified by February 15, 2011.

Member Names and Contact

Complete these forms as the first two pages of the application. Do not recreate this form. These forms are formatted to allow text to be entered in the gray areas. Please note that the completed form cannot be saved. Print out the completed form for the proposal and your files.

Authorizing Official

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Address:

Phone:
Email:

Signature

Date

Team Leader

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Address:

Phone:
Email:

Contact Person

If different then
Team Leader

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Address:

Phone:
Email:

Team Member

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